

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/787,130
Sughrue Ref: Q80148

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15 and 16 have been examined in the subject application. Claims 5, 6, and 14 have been withdrawn. By way of this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 9 and cancelled withdrawn claims 5, 6, and 14. For the following reasons, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The above amendments to claims 7 and 8 are believed to address the informalities noted by the Examiner with respect to these claims. Thus, it is requested that the related objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15 and 16 have been examined in the subject Office Action. Of these claims, claims 1, 7 and 9 are in independent form.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto, et al '302). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto, et al. '223). Claims 1, 4, 9, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yamamoto, et al. '223 in view of Wallace (U.S. Patent No. 3,778,916). Finally, claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto '233 in view of Wallace as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yamamoto '302.

Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections are unsupported.

For example, claim 1 recites as follows:

A fishing rod comprising:

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a rod pipe;
a tubular body to which the rod pipe is inserted and fitted;
a tubular transparent synthetic resin body integrally molded with the tubular body;
a concealing film formed on at least one edge face portion of the synthetic resin body;
a grip portion to which the tubular transparent synthetic resin body is fixed with the concealing film disposed therebetween; and
an adhesive agent for fixing the grip portion and the concealing film formed on the transparent synthetic resin body.

The prior art does not teach or suggest fishing rod which includes a tubular body to which the rod pipe is inserted and fitted and a tubular transparent synthetic resin body which is integrally molded with the tubular body, as highlighted above.

As noted above, the Examiner asserts that Yamamoto, et al. '223 discloses this feature of claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner continues to maintain that element 12 corresponds to the claimed tubular body and that elements 13 and 14 correspond to the claimed synthetic resin body. The Examiner states “the Examiner fails to see how the relationship between the synthetic resin body 13, as it is molded to the tubular body 12 to create a one-piece rod grip, is distinct from the relationship between tubular body 17 and molded synthetic resin body 16 in the present invention.”

Yamamoto, et al. '223 specifically states that elements 12 and 13 are fixedly bonded to each other. *See*, column 4, lines 20-23. The specification at page 13, lines 17-22 describes the advantage of the claimed invention (in which the resin body 16 is integrally molded with the tubular body 17) over the arrangement disclosed in Yamamoto, et al. '223. Specifically, the specification states as follows:

Moreover, the synthetic resin body 16 is formed integrally with the outer side of the reinforced tubular body 17 by molding and the reinforced tubular body 17 is fixed to the rod pipe 12, whereby the synthetic resin seat body can be secured firmly to the rod pipe 12. Particularly since the resin seat body is not bonded to the reinforced body 17 but formed integrally with the reinforced tubular body 17 by molding, the reinforced tubular body 17 externally looks beautiful as seen from the outside of the transparent synthetic resin seat body 16.

Thus, the specification specifically distinguishes the claimed arrangement over that disclosed in Yamamoto, et al. '223 and highlights the advantage associated with the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Yamamoto, et al. '223 in this respect.

Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to recite that an adhesive agent fixes the grip portion and the concealing film formed on the transparent synthetic resin body. It is submitted that the prior art did not teach or suggest this aspect of the invention. In particular, Yamamoto discloses a grip portion 12 and a synthetic resin body 13, and the Examiner admits that Yamamoto does not disclose the construction materials used which are colored, opaque, transparent, translucent, etc. Yamamoto is a patent held by Daiwa Seiko. The actual structure that the Yamamoto patent uses is an opaque resin for forming the synthetic resin body. Therefore, when the synthetic resin body is coupled to the grip portion, a connecting surface (section) between the synthetic resin body and the grip portion cannot be viewed from the outside, and thus, the adhered state cannot be viewed. Accordingly, any adhesive agent or the like does not deteriorate the appearance of the fishing rod.

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On the other hand, since the synthetic resin body, according to the present invention, is formed of transparent resin, when the synthetic resin body is coupled to the grip portion, the connecting surface can be viewed from exterior through the synthetic resin body. Thus, if no concealing film is provided, the bonding state could be viewed and the appearance of the fishing rod would be deteriorated. Thus, according to the present invention, the concealing film is applied on the synthetic resin body in advance. Therefore, when an adhesive agent adheres the grip portion body and the synthetic resin body (concealing film), since the agent is interposed between the grip portion and concealing film, the adhered state of adhesive agent cannot be viewed and the appearance is not deteriorated.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Turning to the rejection of independent claim 7, Applicants submits hat claim 7 patentably distinguishes over the prior art for the same reasons discussed above in regard to claim 1, i.e., the prior art does not teach or suggest an arrangement in which the synthetic resin body is integrally molded with an outer side of the tubular body, as required by claim 7. Further, claim 7 recites that the reinforced tubular body extends in an axial direction thereof longer than that of the synthetic resin body. Clearly, element 12 of Yamamoto, et al. '223 does not extend in an axial direction further than the element 13. Indeed, it appears that the Examiner has completely ignored this limitation of claim 7. The same argument applies equally to Yamamoto, et al. '302.

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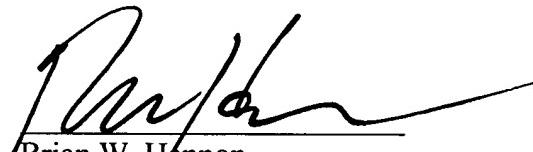
Similarly, it is submitted that independent claim 9 patentably distinguishes over the prior art for the reasons discussed above in regard to the integrally molded limitation.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

On the other hand, the Applicant has specifically requested the undersigned to request an interview with the Examiner in the event that the Examiner feels that the application is not in condition for allowance. Therefore, the undersigned formally requests that the Examiner contact him to arrange an interview in the event that the application is not deemed to be in condition for allowance.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian W. Hannon
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550
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